

Message Text

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SUB: PRESS COVERAGE: INAUGURATION, U.S. DELEGATION

1. SANTO DOMINGO MADEIRA WENT ALL OUT IN COVERING THE GUZMAN INAUGURATION. DESPITE COMPETITION OF TRANSFER OF POWER ITSELF AND OTHER ILLUSTRIOUS VISITORS, U.S. DELEGATION RECEIVED BIG PLAY FOR IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP AS SYMBOL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTEREST IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT.

2. HEADLINE AND STORY CONTENT GENERALLY OBJECTIVE BUT TRANSPARENTLY PLEASED. LEFTIST TABLOID LA NOTICIA REVEALED ITS TRUE SENTIMENTS WITH END-OF-THE-WORLD SIZE TYPE, "AT LAST* GUZMAN IN OFFICE," BUT THIS WAS MORE THE EXCEPTION. WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON REINFORCED LOCAL FEELING THAT U.S. DEEPLY INTERESTED. ARY MOLEON AP ARTICLE OF AUGUST 17, WITH LEAD SOATING U.S. PRESS CONFERRED UPON ANTONIO GUZMAN'S INSTALLATION AS PRESIDENT AN ATTENTION RARELY PAID TO ORDERLY TRANSFERS OF POWER IN LATIN AMERICA, CONTAINED QUOTES FROM THE WASHINGTON STAR AND QUOTED COMPLETE TEXT OF WASHINGTON POST AUGUST 17 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A BIG DAY IN SANTO DOMINGO." ALL PAPERS REPLAYED POST EDITORIAL AND QUOTES FROM KAREN DE YOUNGS' AUGUST 17 STORY, "DOMINICAN TAKES OFFICE IN RARE PEACEFUL TRANSFER."

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3. GREATEST PLAY WAS GIVEN GUZMAN'S APPOINTMENT OF GENERALS AND RETIREMENT OF NEIT NIVAR. ONLY LESS ATTENTION WENT TO NAMING OF CABINET.

4. ACTIVITIES OF U.S. DELEGATION GOT LION'S SHARE OF MEDIA COVERAGE. PREEMINENCE OF SECRETARY VANCE CAME THROUGH IN

STORIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS IN SPITE OF SHORT DURATION OF HIS STAY. ARRIVAL STATEMENT WAS FULLY REPORTED BY MOST PAPERS ALONG WITH PHOTOGRAPHS. ALTHOUGH AUGUST 14 ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND PARTY COMPETED WITH SUCH NOTABLES AS COSTA RICAN VICE PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER OF HAITI, VICE PREMIER OF NATIONALIST CHINA, INTEREST IN AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS INTENSE: AND REPORTERS AT HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES VIED FOR STORIES.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS ESPECIALLY ADEPT AT HANDLING QUESTIONS IMPLYING STATEMENTS ON ELECTORAL PROCESS BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE CONSTITUTED "INTERFERENCE" IN DOMINICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AUGUST 17 TRIP TO PEACE CORPS PROJECTS AT SANTIAGO ALSO RECEIVED GOOD PLAY.

6. IN ANOTHER MEDIA BYPLAY HANK AARON WAS TOP STORY ON THE SPORTS PAGES. TYPICAL WAS FULL-PAGE INTERVIEW IN EL SOL WHICH PICTURED HIM WITH JUAN MARICHAL, WHO SERVED AS AARON'S ABLE ESCORT-INTERPRETER BOTH AT THE NATIONAL SPORTSWRITERS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON AND FOR TV INTERVIEW ON CHANNEL 13.

7. IN SUM MEDIA TREATMENT OF U.S. INTEREST IN THE FIRST PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER FROM ONE ELECTED PRESIDENT TO ANOTHER ELECTED PRESIDENT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WAS ALL THAT COULD BE HOPED FOR.
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